

*Symphony*

SECRET CONTROL

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES FORCES AUSTRIA  
SSU, WD MISSION TO AUSTRIA  
APO 777

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: Vienna, Austria Field Hq File LSX 257  
SCI/A

---

REPORT MADE AT:	DATE:	PERIOD COVERED:	MADE BY:
Vienna	15.5.46	May 1946	DD 110

---

SUBJECT: SPECIFIC:	Project SYMPHONY	STATUS:
GENERAL:	Jewish Agency, Budapest, and Penetration by Russian In- telligence	Pending.

---

SOURCE: CONDUCTOR and LILAC

---

REFERENCE: LSX 182, LVX 222, LVX 230, LSX 251.

---

COMMENT: 1. WIENINGER does not work for any American  
Intelligence Agency in Austria.

---

DISTRIBUTION:

- 4 Washington
- 1 London
- 2 Amzon
- 2 Rome
- 1 Budapest
- 1 Salzburg
- 3 Files

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B26  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

APPROVED:

*DDIC*

OFFICER IN CHARGE

SECRET CONTROL

SECRET CONTROL

1. As said before RUFFER is here to investigate the mess in which are the affairs of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency in Austria and Hungary. (See LSX 251).

2. To this effect he interrogated Joel BRANDT's former business associate in Budapest, one Moshe OFFENBACH. The latter is now the owner of a large garage and a textile factory in Hungary. During this war he was one of the men of the Jewish Agency in Budapest, working together with KASTNER, BRANDT (his business associate) SANTHO and others to: hide Jewish parachutists, to get Jews out of the country and to spring them from concentration camps. To this effect he dealt with the Gestapo on the emigration of Jews in the famous GROSS-BRANDT case in Istanbul (which was handled on the Budapest side by KASTNER, Subject and KASTNER's factotum SANTHO. In this business were also involved Dr. SCHLIED (real name GEFRORNER), LAUFFER, SCHWARZ, SEDLACHEK, Erich WENDER and similar small fry of the GIS, who were all subsequently arrested.

3. KASTNER after war fled to Switzerland, where his shady dealings are being investigated by the Jewish Agency (in the person of RUFFER). Joel BRANDT has been cleared by the Jewish Agency and he has been twice to Bratislava where he met the above named OFFENBACH, who traveled to Czechoslovakia to see him. As both meetings were not enough OFFENBACH will meet BRANDT again in the Austrian-Swiss border next week. BRANDT does not dare come to Budapest where apparently his guilt is established by the Hungarian State Police, who are looking for him, although the BRICHA promised to protect him.

4. OFFENBACH is interesting as he knows all the GIS people and the Jewish Agency people in Budapest during the war. He knew that after their liberation from service with the Russians, GEFRORNER, WIENINGER, LAUFFER, SEDLACHEK and SCHWARZ (see LSX 182) went to Budapest whence they proceeded for some reason unknown to Bucharest. All of them later came back to Budapest. GEFRORNER and LAUFFER and SEDLACHEK were again arrested by the NKVD in Budapest and it is not known where they are now.

5. The only one of which OFFENBACH knows something is WIENINGER. The latter is very much wanted by the Political section of the Jewish Agency for his alleged betrayal.

SECRET CONTROL

SECRET CONTROL

OFFENBACH met in Vienna one Stefan VAKADAS, who had a garage in Budapest and now has a large garage and automobile dealer's agency in Vienna at 137 Grintzingerstrasse, Vienna XIX, (American Zone). This Stefan was until lately in touch with the entire GIS gang who were working for the NKVD in Vienna and in Budapest. This Stefan knows that his former buddies of the GIS were all arrested by the Budapest NKVD except Joseph WIENINGER, who he said is now in Salzburg, working for some American Intelligence Agency. WIENINGER asserted to Stefan that he had told the Americans that during this war he worked as a courier for the JOINT between BUDAPEST and Istanbul, and that he thus worked for "American Intelligence". WIENINGER comes very frequently to Vienna where he stays with his friend Stefan.

6. OFFENBACH, a big time operator, having worked with the Gestapo during this war and at the same time with the underground Jewish Agency people in Budapest is now again suspected by RUFFER, who subjected him to a close interrogation in the presence of DD 110, who was presented as a messenger of the BRICHA, one Moshe BIRKI. OFFENBACH is able to travel around a lot because of the personal protection of one Russian-Jewish Captain WEISSMAN of the Budapest NKVD. Previously after the entrance of the Russians in Budapest OFFENBACH was arrested by the Russians and closely interrogated by the NKVD for his work for the JOINT. The Russians do not understand the humanitarian role of the JOINT and regard every person connected with it as an American spy. Their reasoning runs as follows: "It is not possible that an American Agency spends hundreds of thousands of dollars in Budapest without wanting something in return and that something is intelligence". This is the reason why no American representative of the JOINT has been allowed to come to Budapest since the Russians are there. The same applies to the International Red Cross which is also regarded (together with the UNRRA) as an intelligence service.

7. OFFENBACH was acting for three months as an interpreter for the NKVD in Budapest. There is no doubt that his frequent travels are due to the protection of the NKVD or of some NKVD officers. He will be back in Vienna where he will further be interrogated by RUFFER and DD 110.

SECRET CONTROL

SECRET CONTROL

8. It is interesting to know that Stefan VARADAS is apparently the Middle-European representative for STUDEBAKER. He has shown OFFENBACH copies of bills representing shipments of automobiles from the States to him, and wants OFFENBACH to take over the Hungarian representation for STUDEBAKER. Stefan said that he did not want anything to do any more with those people (NKVD) and that he was not working for them. He supplies LEPESZ, CONDUCTOR's right hand man, with cars. It is not known whether Stefan is working here for the Russians.

9. OFFENBACH is still in contact with the Jewish Agency boys in Budapest, whose work he is watching. The connections which the Jewish Agency boys have are very diversified. For instance their contact in the NKGB in Budapest is one ZALLEL (Hebrew operation name). This lad was working in the Jewish Agency underground in Budapest during the war and is now in the NKGB, as the adjutant of a Colonel who is in charge of "the section which controls the NKVD" (sic). ZALLEL comes very often to Vienna. Sometimes he is seen (by DD 110) as an NKVD Sergeant. Sometimes he is wearing a one-star Lieutenant's uniform. He boasts that his Colonel tells him a lot of super-secret stuff, cautioning him not to tell it to anybody, but "a few hours later the "boys" (Jewish Agency lads) know about it" (sic). ZALLEL is now in Vienna and is working closely with some Viennese messengers of the CONDUCTOR group.

What is  
it - if  
they know  
it.

10. Following reports came in after above had been written. Source - LILAC.

a. Reference is made to para 5 of above wherein it was stated that Joseph WIENINGER was in Salzburg. LILAC's brother, Karl, received the visit of WIENINGER on Friday, 3 May 1946. WIENINGER asked LILAC's brother whether he could help LILAC get out of prison, whether he could furnish him with bail, and said he was or his chiefs were willing to put up one hundred thousand shillings for LILAC. When LILAC's brother asked who were WIENINGER's chiefs the latter said that he was now working for the British and wanted to know whether LILAC was willing to work for them too after his liberation.

b. WIENINGER a former GIS agent and a courier for the Jewish Agency in Budapest and Istanbul during this war travels for British Intelligence from Vienna to Salzburg.

SECRET CONTROL

SECRET CONTROL

c. The story of WIENINGER's alleged work for the Russians has been told by WIENINGER to LILAC, before the latter's imprisonment in connection with the KLEIN case.

d. GEFORNER (alias Dr. SCHMID) and Greta ROTTER were working for the Russian NKVD unit in the Boesendorfer strasse and fingered WIENINGER who managed to hide with the Communist political boss of the II Bezirk, one Bela KLEIN. The latter, after having heard where WIENINGER hid his jewels, fingered him to the Russians and WIENINGER was arrested and brought to the NKVD unit situated in April at the hotel Hofwirth on the Praterstrasse. There WIENINGER managed to escape by jumping out of a back window, with the complicity of a befriended waiter.

e. Bela KLEIN, a Hungarian Communist had been arrested by the Gestapo in the winter of 1944-45 and liberated by the Russians on 8 April 1945. He became now and still is the right hand man of the Colonel in charge of the II Bezirk. He acts as the latter's interpreter and general fingerman.

SECRET CONTROL